

PROVING IT WAS NO FLUKE . . .

After Sutton, Wanderers

hit back from

behind again

Hitchin Town 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2

WYCOMBE WANDERERS demonstrated that their fight back at Sutton had been no fluke when they hit Hitchin twice in the second half to take the points at Top Field on Tuesday night.

Wycombe once again went in a goal down at half-time and, having been outplayed, for much of the half.

However, the second period saw a much-improved performance and goals late in the game by Delaney (penalty) and Hatt gave Wanderers the points.

RELIED ON GOGAN.

Early Hitchin attacks relying mainly on centre-forward Gogan

to provide the run or the touch menaced the Wycombe rear-guard. In the 10th minute Gogan beat Delaney in the air and his resulting lay-off with Cutler allowed his opponent to push the ball wide of the post.

The Wycombe defence were having difficulty in coping with the lively Hitchin front-runners, who showed a marked appetite to play the ball first time.

It was this ability when under pressure, that gained Hitchin their goal.

With 15 minutes gone the Wycombe defence failed to clear cleanly — the ball was played into the heart of the Wycombe defence, played back out, crossed to the far post, headed back into the goal-mouth and Fulkes, the out-side left, hammered the ball past the unfortunate Maskell.

This reversal stung Wycombe into a series of attacks and from a good cross from Gale, Hatt, stealing in on the blind-side of the Hitchin defence, headed just over the top.

It was Wycombe's ariel prowess that almost succeeded in gaining an equalising goal before half-time.

A spate of corners from the right resulted in first Samuels and then Delaney having attempts cleared from the Hitchin goal-line.

Hatt, also went close again with a headed attempt after 'ghosting' through onto a Rundle cross. Throughout the first half Rundle had played magnificently and he showed signs of adding perception and intelligence to his game.

In the second half, Wycombe began to put pressure on the Hitchin defence and a through ball from Baker forced Ashworth to gratefully concede a corner.

As in the first half Wycombe demonstrated that they had the beating of the Hitchin defence in the air, when Hatt flicked the ball through toward goal and then Horseman rose to head a cross from Baker goalwards.

The Wycombe midfield trio of Baker, Ward and Hatt became rather more positively involved, instead of floating on the outskirts of the game. Although up front Worley, Horseman and Samuels were unable to concertina the Hitchin defence because of their lack of the mobility which is required when playing a 4-3-3 formation.

In the 70th minute Wycombe equalised. Horseman, demonstrating the new found persistence, he has attained this season, chased a long ball into the Hitchin half — running the ball into Town's penalty area, he was brought down, Delaney scoring from the spot.

ACTIVE FRENZY

This goal brought on a frenzy of activity from both sides. Gogan heading wide after a good overlap by Pratt, and, for Wycombe Worley, winning a corner at the other end.

It was Worley, who as at Sutton proved instrumental in winning the game.

With five minutes of the match remaining, Worley beat two men on the right before crossing the ball to Hatt, who placed his header over Blythe, the Hitchin goal-keeper, into the net.

All that remained was for Wycombe to keep Hitchin out and this they did with ruthless efficiency.

Wycombe — Maskell, Rundle, Gale, Lailey, Delaney, Ward, Worley, Baker, Horseman, Hatt, Samuels. Sub.: Faulkner (not used).

Hitchin — Blythe, Pratt, Reid, Hawkins, Ashworth, Robinson, Brookes, Cutler, Gogan, Townsend, Fulkes. Sub: Butterfield.